

June 9, 1977

Dear Bess and Bob,

Thank you so much for the beautiful bracelet you sent me with your provincial "Trillium" on it. It is something I can cherish for a very long time.

We all would like to extend our sympathies on the robbery of your horse, and the complications of Bob's surgery. We hope everything works out for you soon.

I am very sorry I did not get to visit with you more when you were here. Someday soon, I hope to see Canada, especially Niagara Falls.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Love,
Lisa

May 16th, 1987

M

Mr Bruce Stewart
National Museum of
Science & Technology
2380 Lancaster Rd.
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0M8

Dear Mr Stewart;

Your phone call added to similarity of the theme in my
McKenzie story, showing my cousin Tait, if ignored by me, pops back into
my life again, in the most amazing ways. This is explained on the first
page of the book.

I have intended adding to the story with the booklet enclosed
"Time will tell," as he visits his cousins at a dinner party in Toronto, and
could be while they speak of past adventures. In fact, "Time will Tell" could
be a better title for the whole book.

John and Robert McKenzie are Canadian born sons of Tait's
brother Bertram McKenzie, a civil engineer from Ottawa. The boys served in
the R.C.A.F. during World War Two. Robert became a well known architect, and
John with his talents in art, was a commercial artist in design, is Vice Pres
of the Stein printing Co as well as teaching Calligraphy at the University.
They both have their families in Atlanta. A sister, Dawn McKenzie ~~McKenzie~~
lives in Jacksonville Florida at 14145 Ivylgail Drive N. Fla. 32225 U.S.A.
That means Tait had 2 nephews and a niece.

Tait's brother William was studying theology, and switched to
Christian science, working with Mrs Eddy...wrote hymns for their hymnal, and
was Editor of The Christian Science Monitor still being published. He had one
son Stuart. His wife, son and himself, are all deceased. The sister Agnes,
married late in life...not too successfully as Mrs Pritchard, and lived
with her Mother at my grandmother's home at 4 Spadina Rd, often visiting her
brother William in Boston, and at my home in Collingwood.

My Grandmother Mrs John (Shiells) Bertram was a sister of
Tait's Mother, Mrs Rev William (Shiells) McKenzie - my great Aunt Katie,
making my Mother a first cousin as Mrs Ella Bertram Pitt. Mother was born
May 11th, and Tait on May 26th, both in 1867, so the two babies were Christened
together at the McKenzie Manse in Almonte. They grew up very fond of each
other and the whole family. My story book tells the rest of the Strange
Chronicle", of events, and effects on my life, which has been very full indeed.
Not many have retired three times, then got happily married for 12 years.
Few people have had my opportunities and good luck. Tait always told me accept
them as they came along, which I did..successfully, with no regrets.

While my book does not dwell too much on Tait's technical work,
I feel Jean McGill who wrote "The Joy of Effort" gave my book from her, to
John McK, and he enjoyed it. John, Robert and ~~John~~ may know of Tait's will, alth
although not mentioned, they had often visited at the Mill as children.
A letter I found from Ethel McKenzie's sister said they sold her treasures by
auction as she left no will, as she had no children. I kept her letters as
I packed what she requested, and had it signed by her lawyer Mr Greig in
Almonte. Later she wrote I was to have them, but returned most of it to the
Mill when I attended the McKenzie Days. I have only 4 pieces of glass left.

Tait's Uncle John was most helpful to the McKenzie family.
He was my grandfather who prospered as a Hardware merchant in Peterboro, and
the M.P. Liberal for 9 years around 1876, then moved to Toronto, owning the
Bertram Engine Works (supplied the S.S. City of Kingston etc) and Pres of
the Collins Inlet Lumber Co re booklet Time Will Tell. His daughter-my Mother
married the Gen Mgr -Charles W. Pitt. When Aunt Katie McKenzie was widowed
and left with small children, he bought a piano for teaching the music she
loved and

grandfather

It provided the income to help educate her family. It is interesting to note John Bertrams platform Parliamentary Companion of 1876 edited by Henry J Morgan 11th edition -states- "will give the Administration in power a loyal, but not slavish, support in carrying out the policy ~~they advocated~~ while in opposition...to consolidate the Dominion, giving to each province justice and equal rights, thus allaying sectional feeling, and securing prosperity and happiness thruout the land. In favour of opening connections with the Great-North-West without delay, that facility may be offered for settlement. Will advocate Free Trade as far as the circumstances of the country will allow, that the burden of taxation may fall as lightly as possible on the great producing classes, the farmer, mechanic and labourer."

So that's what they have been trying to do for 111 yrs since then !!!!

I did find the address for the statue casting firm Tait used:

The Medallic Art Company
325 East 45th St
New York, N.Y.

Unfortunately they have moved. May be to Conn. Likely Jame F Leys could give you a correct address...or Jean McGill...or John. I have given you their addresses over the phone. his y

John McKenzie recently gave me one of Peace Posters he was asked by Japan to submit for a Hiroshima Conference. Canada and the U.S.A were asked to contribute. They were shown later in Washington and New York. He also gave me an illustrated book printed in Japan showing all the entries. I would be pleased to give the Peace Poster AND the beautiful book to the Museum if that could be acceptable. I hesitate to mail them for fear of damage, and would have to find some way of getting them there, as I am unable to drive that distance at present.

I regret the lenght of the letter, but felt the family explanation might explain the reason for my interest. Did you know Tait McKenzie always remained a Canadian until his death, and loved his Scottish connection. John now calls me his Canadian Connection. I am very proud of it...and even use it for Can - USA friendly relations in every way.

Would you kindly inform me if the John Stuart McKenzie poster and book of Posters would be of interest.

Glaucoma has prevented re-writing my "Strange Chronicle" so trust you may be able to perceive it as it is.

It was a pleasure talking to you.

Yours very sincerely,

EPB.

epb.

Mrs. Elizabeth Pitt Barron

I trust you will forgive my not typing this as I intended
as it would delay the parcel, and tire me terribly at my age. EPB.

Mr Bruce Stewart
National Museum
of Science and Technology
Rideau St. Ottawa

Dear Mr Stewart.

your phone call was similar to the theme in my
story ^{book} showing how my cousin Tait McKenzie, if overlooked by one,
pops into my life again in most unexpected ways. I sometimes
change the title to "Time will Tell", as it has still gone on with
the next McKenzie generation, with his two nephews Robert
who is an architect and Altona John an artist as well as Vice
President of the Stein Printing Co. of Atlanta Ga. Both were
in the RCAF and lived in Ottawa. Their father Bertram McKenzie
was a civil engineer there. A sister Dawn married a Swede
Ole Knutson. Most children have artistic talents.

I forgot to tell you I have a water colour painting done by Tait in
1901. It's not and given to my mother. It's not too outstanding, but
a pleasant daisy field and ~~sunshine~~ peace.

Tait and Ethel McKenzie had no children, and while at the Physical
Education job he got me at Bryn Mawr College, they gave me a key
of the house, helped me in many ways, and introduced me to their
friends. Being a shy Canadian, from Collingwood Ontario, it was
a revelation to me (Katharine Hepburn was at the College at that
time - and now the old lady of the screen)

However my story may be too personal, as I wrote it in a
weak time, while my husband was ill with terminal cancer. My
mother and I have always had good memory ability, and have always
been able to recall dates and events clearly. Even now at 82 years, I
still drive, but have omitted driving to the Mill of Kentail, as it
is a bit far now. I am confined my travelling to bus trips, as I
do have glaucoma, yet can keep up to my fellow travellers OK to date.

My information in the book parcel, will give much technical
information re Tait McKenzie's work and sculptures. I feel Janice's
book writings are well done regarding this ~~area~~ ^{area} - but sometimes dull.

~~by~~ Jean McGill's book "The Joy of Effort" is a fine reference source &
suggest you find one at the address I gave you. It also has
a more human picture. Tait was very human, a good sense
of humour, and with Ethel treated me as a family member
and even had a dinner party for me on my 21st birthday.
He was working on the Scottish memorial then and had me working
in clay at the same time, running for the train with a damp piece
in my hand. My efforts did not warrant further work, and time
was a factor in my work which you may notice was filled
completely.

It still is, as a member of the Niagara Falls Historical Society,
formerly on the Mill of Kentail Museum Advisory Board and the
Tait McKenzie Association - where I suggested it should be R Tait
McKenzie as there are other Tait McKenzies - but it was unheeded.
Robert, Rob, Bob and Rab were used by his family. I knew his mother
and sister who lived with my grandmother Mrs John Bertram at
4 Spadina Rd. His mother was my great Aunt Katie (Catherine) (ori)

and I spent many happy Christmases there. My grandfather was a Federal Liberal Member in 1876, and a parliament book at that time ~~says~~ reads "will give the administration in power a loyal but not slavish, support in carrying out the policy they advocated while in opposition - and to consolidate the Union, giving to each prov justice and equal rights, thus allaying sectional feeling, and securing prosperity and happiness throughout the land. In favour of opening the Great North West without delay, that every facility may be afforded for settlement. Will advocate Free Trade as far as the circumstances of the country will allow, that the burden of taxation ~~will allow~~ may fall lightly as possible on the great producing classes, the farmer, mechanic and labourer. (sounds familiar)

John Bertram was the "Uncle John" who often helped the McKenzies. Tait & my mother were both born in May - Mother May 11th and Tait on May 24th. The Mothers - devoted sisters - Helen ^{Shiels} Bertram, and ~~Mother~~ Catherine Shiels McKenzie christened their babies together in Almont by Tait's father - Rev William McKenzie a Scottish Presbyterian. Both were born in 1867. Canada's Birthday year -

John Bertram became prosperous as a hardware merchant in Peterboro, was a M.P. for ^{Peterboro} nine years - moved to Toronto - Pres of Collens Inlet Lumber Co, became a shipbuilder - Bertram Engine Works until his death in 1904 - one week after my birth at 9 Walmer Rd - his home at that time. So you can see how the Bertrams and McKenzies were related - & always friends. When Aunt Katie McKenzie was widowed while Tait was very young, her brother-in-law gave her a piano which enabled her to teach music, and help with the education of her family. Her daughter Agnes was one of the first to introduce Kindergarten in London Ont where she & her mother lived at the time. William McKenzie, her brother, discarded a theology to become a Christian Scientist - worked with Mrs Eddy, and eventually Editor of the Christian Science Monitor. He was very dignified, most pleasant and did much for his sister Agnes - who married late in life - and chose her husband not too wisely - (to put it mildly)

Bertram, the engineer had a successful career, as did his sons, Robert & John in Atlanta, and Dawn McKenzie Gleeson in Jacksonville Florida. Now their children are doing well.

John McKenzie has given me a "Peace" poster designed and painted by him, at the request of Japan, and was shown in a special conference at Hiroshima by a special commercial artists of U.S.A and Canada. His effort is outstanding, and specially mentioned at the Washington Exhibit - (last year I think). I also have a book showing all the entries, and would be glad to present both to the museum, if they are interested, although there may be a problem getting them to you.

I regret the length of this letter and perhaps was carried away. However, I just found an address I have been looking for

The Medallie Art Co.

325 East 45th St.

New York N.Y. (no code number)

It may not be too much help as I believe they moved elsewhere, may be Conn. Jean McGill or Jamie Leys may know. They cast many of Tait's pieces of sculpture, and could be most informative about his work

28 Sunday

Bright sunner
coolish day - dry roads

MEMO

1 Sea Party for Bob -		Sunday 19
1 Mary Pitt	Toronto	Monday 12
2 Bert Pitt	Toronto	attended 31
3 Dora Putman	Welland	
4 Ted Putman	"	
5 Laura Putman	"	
6 Ken Sleens	"	
7 Margaret Van Wyk	Niagara Falls	Pineapple Loaf
8 John Van Wyk	" "	Fancy Cookies
9 Marlene Brebner	" "	Birthday Cake
10 Bill Brebner	" "	
11 Pam Wedd	Port Colborne	Lunch Guests
12 Pete Wedd	" "	1 Mary sandwiches
13 Ann Hughes	Mississauga	2 Bert Muffins
14 Wong Hughes	" "	3 Alot B) Tarts
15 Dorothy Boyer	Bracebridge	Bananas
16 Mel Huck	Welland	Pine Pudding
17 Marjorie Huck	" "	Supper Guests
18 Jack Brighty	Niagara Falls	1 Bea Brighty
19 Bea Brighty	Niagara Falls	2 Jack " Scrambled
Regrets		Eggs Tomatoes
Mary Cawthorne - Flu		
Gerry Nash		
Braven "		
Michael Beacome		

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MARCH

1

Monday

2

Tuesday

3

<p>7:00 Babs Birthday.</p> <p>^{Business Menor} ^{Welland} 1 Ethel Martin Apt 321</p> <p>" 8:00 2 Bill Martin " 321</p> <p>" 3 Mr R. Pilon .. 109</p> <p>" 4 Mrs R 109</p> <p>" 5 Antonia de Sepia .. 209</p> <p>" 6 Joe de Sepia .. 209</p> <p>" 7 Mr Schuster .. 5--</p> <p>" 8 Mrs 5--</p> <p>^{Welland} Corraught 9 Dorothy Makheen</p> <p>^{St. Kitts} 10 Edna Chin Yet</p> <p>Tenwick 11 Eva Alexander</p> <p>" 1:00 (12) Harry Alexander Regrets & McCormack</p> <p>2:00</p>	<p>a.m. Books</p> <p>Expenses</p> <p>p.m. Printers. ^{Proof} - St. Kitts - Market</p> <p>Ted Sales Tax Noel Brenner Vergne</p> <p>even - Ted Visit</p> <p>Nora chemo Therapy. - has shingles mid ripp</p>
<p>3:00 Tidied up moved furniture</p> <p>4:00 Cleaned</p> <p>7:00 pm.</p> <p>5:00 tired</p> <p>6:00 Nora - to Toronto.</p> <p>7:00</p> <p>8:00</p>	<p>7.2</p>



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